



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

CODIFICATION OF CRIMINAL LAW IN ENGLAND.

but many of them do, and are never reimbursed by the city that employs them, for there is no provision in the law for spending the tax-payers' money this way. The result is that the average detective is prone to receive rewards on the sly when he ought to be above such a thing. The 'stool pigeon' mode of doing detective work will never be put on a proper basis until every city sets aside a fund to pay police informers.

"A 'stool pigeon' does not have to be a thief necessarily, but he generally is one. Dive-keepers and owners of resorts that thieves frequent make first-class 'stoos.' Most any liquor dealer who does not observe the excise law strictly can be driven into the 'stool pigeon' class by the police making him obey the law while his competitors are allowed to disregard it. If he complains of police activity he can be easily induced to impart information to the police on the understanding that he will not be molested any more than his competitors. Such is the common way of turning an ordinarily decent saloon-keeper into a 'stool.' The dive-keeper is a willing informer, for he knows the easiest way to avoid trouble is to give the police the information they seek.

"There is no getting away from the value of 'stool pigeon' information. Whenever you read of a detective being around when a crime is being committed, you are safe in assuming that they are on hand because of a tip, and that it is 'stool pigeon' information that causes them to be on the job. This is invariably so where arrests of criminals are made while they are in the act of committing a robbery of any sort." J. W. G.

PROPOSED CODIFICATION OF THE CRIMINAL LAW OF ENGLAND.—It is announced that the Lord Chancellor has introduced the first instalment of a scheme for codifying the whole criminal law of England. The work is to proceed by stages, the whole project to be brought forward in sections. The *London Times*, in commenting on the project, remarks that the advantages of codification are very much less exaggerated now than formerly. That there are manifest advantages, however, the *Times* readily admits. Thus it says:

"But it is surely justification enough of such a work that the majority of the indictable offenses in this country are dealt with by tribunals not composed of lawyers. The chairman may be, and the clerk always is, a lawyer, but the bulk of the Bench, who are not, may fairly claim that they shall have some authoritative statement of the law which they are called upon to apply. If further justification were needed, it is found in the fact that in the very process of codification criminal law is necessarily rationalized; absurdities and solecisms are almost automatically expelled. It is, too, a great opportunity for bringing the law into accord with public opinion, the best security for its being obeyed. Nor need we, on the other hand, take it for granted that codification means petrification or ossification of the law, which is one familiar objection. The experience of modern countries which have adopted codes is not to that effect. In these days the danger that there will be too little legislation, too great a tendency to respect what has once been enacted, is very small." J. W. G.

PROPOSED INDETERMINATE SENTENCE LAW IN RHODE ISLAND.—At the recent session of the Rhode Island General Assembly a strong effort was made to secure the enactment of a law providing for the indeterminate sentence in the case of persons sentenced to the state prison for offenses other than murder, manslaughter, arson, burglary, robbery, and rape. The maximum term prescribed by the proposed law was not to be longer than the maximum term fixed